

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02265 280910Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 030792

O 280821Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7710

S E C R E T AMMAN 2265

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS,JO, US, SA, UR

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE -- TIMING CONSIDERATION

REF: (A) AMMAN 2225, (B) JIDDA 3036, (C) STATE 110211

1. AT RISK OF FURTHER BURDENING YOU WITH UNNECESSARY PAPER, I ADDRESS AGAIN THE ISSUE OF TIMING (REFTEL A).

2 I HAVE NO INTEREST IN SUGGESTING ANY CHANGE IN OUR BASIC STRATEGY; TIMING IS IN THE MAIN A TACTICAL ISSUE. EVEN IF JORDANIANS BEGIN TO MAKE MORE PUBLIC STATEMENTS, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE OUR STRATEGY OF WORKING OUT BEST POSSIBLE TWO-PHASE APPROACH TO FUNDING.

3. THE MAJOR TIMING PROBLEM CONCERNS WHAT THE JORDANIANS MIGHT DO TO MAKE THE LAST FEW DAYS COMMUNICATIONS SCREW UP BETWEEN THEM AND THE SAUDIS CHILD'S PLAY. KING IS DISCONSOLATE AND PROBABLY NOW STEELED TO TRY TO RUN THE SOVIET COURSE. FURTHER NON-COMMUNICATION FROM US RUNS RISK, AS IT DID AS RESULT OF WASHINGTON MEETINGS, OF PRODUCING MORE OUTBURSTS FROM HERE. I LEAVE TO YOU TO JUDGE THE EFFECT ON THE SAUDIS. WHETHER THAT WILL BE, IF IT OCCURS, A FINAL BLOW TO THE PRESENT STRATEGY, I CANNOT SAY. I THINK THAT WITHOUT SOMETHING FURTHER

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 02265 280910Z

FOR THE KING, AS SUGGESTED IN AMMAN 2225, WE RUN A HIGH

RISK OF HAVING JORDANIANS THROUGH PUBLIC HANDLING OF THE DEAL
KILL OFF SAUDI OPTION AT \$300 MILLION
LEVEL, OR POSSIBLY AT ANY LEVEL. IT IS NOT LOGICAL,
BUT WHEN KING IS TOLD WHAT TO DO OR WHAT NOT TO DO BY SOMEONE,
AS WE HAVE SEEN IN THE PAST, HIS TENDENCY IS TO ACT IN
CONTRARY FASHION.

4. PROBLEM OF TIMING HAS TWO PARTS, ASIDE FROM WHAT
HAPPENS WITH SAUDIS. ONE IS WHAT U.S. DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT DOES ON CONTRACTS (ADDRESSED TO SOME
EXTENT IN REF C) AND ON TRAINING, WHICH WE WILL
ADDRESS IN SEPTTEL. OTHER QUESTION IS JORDAN. HERE
MY THINKING, IN ABSENCE OF SAUDI REPLY, STILL RUNS
ALONG LINES OF SUGGESTING A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY IN ORDER
TO GET EXTENSION OF DEADLINE ON REMAINING QUIET. IT
WOULD HAVE TO CONTAIN SOME SUBSTANCE. IDEA OF OUR HAVING
MADE PROGRESS WITH SAUDIS IS IMPORTANT. JORDANIANS HAVE
BEEN STRESSING IDEA OF A WHOLE PACKAGE, POSSIBLY BE-
CAUSE THEY WANT TO MAXIMIZE SAUDI GENEROSITY, OR ALSO
POSSIBLY, BECAUSE AS WE HAVE SEEN IN RECENT REPORT,
JORDANIANS ERRONEOUSLY BELIEVE THAT PHASED APPROACH
IS AT LEVEL OF A \$500 MILLION PACKAGE -- \$300 MILLION
PLUS FROM JIDDA, THE REST IN FMSCR FROM US. PERHAPS
A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE WITH
SAUDIS AND OURSELVES IN TERMS OF 14 BATTERIES 100
GUNS AND NEEDED OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT IN FIRST PHASE
FUNDING WILL BE NECESSARY. WE OF COURSE RUN A RISK WITH THIS
OF OVER-COMMITMENT. FINALLY CONTACT AND TRAINING EXTENSION
WOULD ALSO HELP AS WOULD SOME DATE CERTAIN. ON THAT
POINT SOVIET AIR FORCE MISSION ARRIVES HERE MAY 17 AND
JORDANIANS WANT TIME TO PREPARE. FINALLY, BIGGEST
PROBLEM WILL BE PUBLICITY. IN MY JUDGMENT EVEN IF
JORDANIANS WENT QUIETLY (BUT NOT PUBLICLY) AHEAD WITH
SOVIETS, WE COULD HOPE TO TRY TO AVOID ANOTHER CONTRETEMPS WITH
SAUDIS.

5. MY BEAR NOW IS THAT WITHOUT SOMETHING FURTHER FROM ME
BY AT LATEST FRIDAY, APRIL 30, JORDANIANS WILL ASSUME THAT DEAL
REALLY IS FINISHED AS FAR AS WE AND SAUDIS ARE CON-
CERNED. THEY WILL THEN GO AHEAD IN THEIR OWN WAY TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 02265 280910Z

MAKE THAT A CERTAINTY, NOT BECAUSE THEY WANT TO OR BE-
CAUSE IT IS LOGICAL, BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE NOW IN A
POSITION, AS THEY SEE IT, WHERE SOVIET OPTION IS THE
ONLY ALTERNATIVE AND THEY WILL WANT TO MAXIMIZE THE
VALUE TO THEM OF THAT OPTION.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR DEFENSE, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN02265
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760160-1081
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760415/aaaaamfg.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 AMMAN 2225, 76 JIDDA 3036, 76 STATE 110211
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE -- TIMING CONSIDERATION
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US, SA, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006